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**NSC BRIEFING**

**1 March 1955**

DIA and PACOM review(s) completed.

**OFFSHORE ISLANDS**

**I. ChiNats completed evacuation Nanchishan garrison (2,800 regts, 900 guerrillas) morning of 25 Feb. ChiComs made no attempt interfere.**

- A. Regulars sent to Pescadores, guerrillas to Matsus, acc/to MAAG.**
- B. Some 2,000 civilians also evacuated from Nanchishan.**
- C. Peiping announced Nanchishan "liberated" on 26 Feb, thus creating "more favorable conditions for liberation Formosa and islands along Fukien coast"--Matsus and Quemoy.**

**II. Matsus could be next ChiCom target.**

**A.**

**internal ChiCom propaganda build-up**

**for Matsus similar to that preceding invasion of Ichiang and pressure on Tachens.**

- B. Work proceedings rapidly on new jet base at Luchiao near Haimen on Chekiang coast. Taipei attachés believe surfacing of runways there to be completed soon. When finished, planes based there will be only 175 miles**

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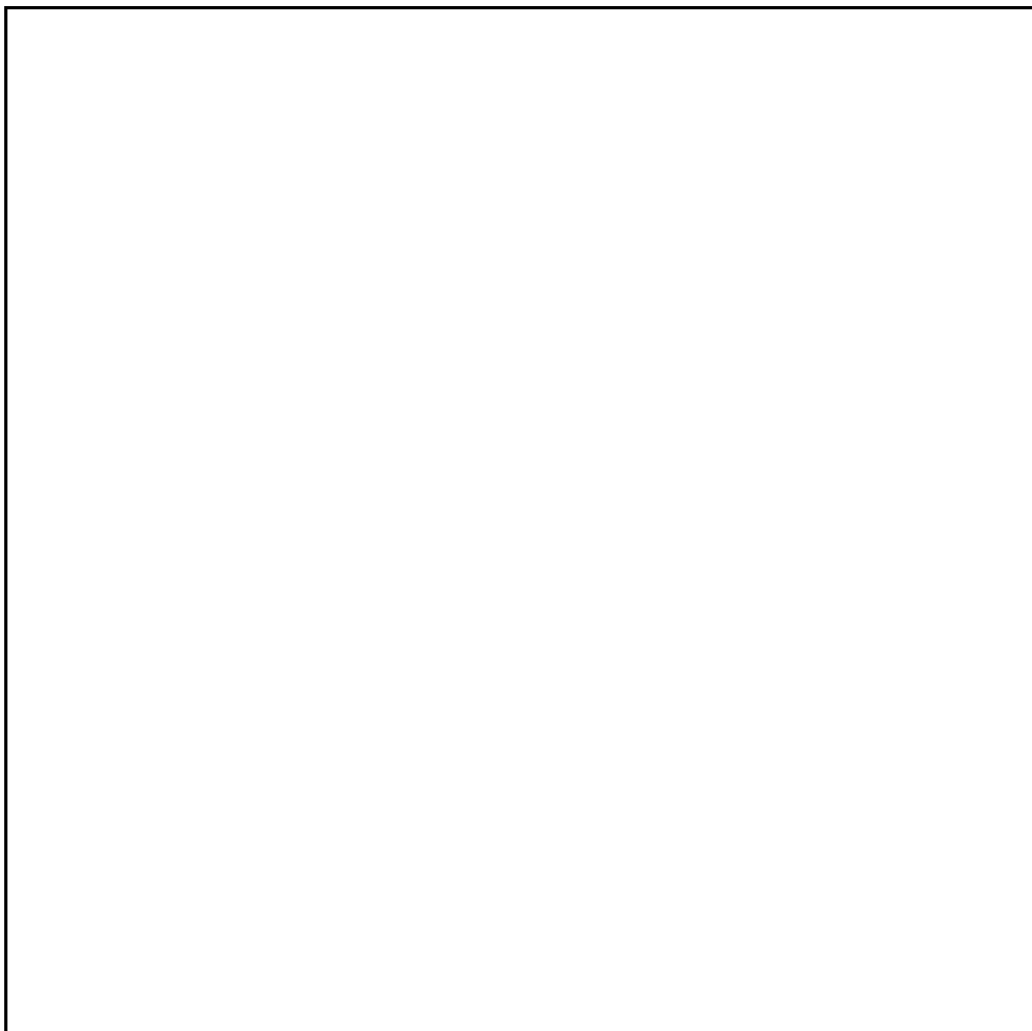
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- 2 -

25X1



**III. Matsu group covers several islands, and very hard to judge which would be attacked first.**

**A. Matsu group includes nine named islands.**

**Central islands in the group are: Matsu,  
Peikantang, Kaoteng.**

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25X1

- 3 -

- B. Other islands, located at a distance of ten miles or more from Matsu itself are: Tungyin (Yinshan), about 35 miles NE; Langtao (Lan-Tao), about 20 miles NE; White Dogs (Hsi-chuan and Tung-chuan), approximately 10 miles south; Upper and Lower Wuchiu, about 45 miles SW.
  - C. ChiComs might "nibble" at Matsu group, try to take more lightly-defended islands first.
  - D. One early invasion target may be Wuchiu Islands, shelled by ChiCom patrol craft and junks on 25 Feb.
- IV. Nationalists plan stronger defenses for the Matsus; are sending more regular troops to the islands, also reorganizing Matsu defense command.
- A. American-trained-and-equipped 84th Division, currently full strength at 11,000 men, arriving this week. Regulars now on Matsus will go to Quemoy. Additional guerrillas will bring irregular force strength on Matsus to estimated 1,900 men.
  - B. Main Matsu islands will be held by 84th Division troops. Satellite islands, such as White Dogs, will be held by guerrilla forces.

- 4 -

**V. Quemoy quiet, broken occasionally by light shelling.**

- A. MAAG reports movements of ChiCom troops, trucks, artillery on Amoy Island and on roads surrounding Quemoy. May be training or moving to forward areas.**
- B. No large-scale movements reported, but CINCPAC thinks there is "probability" of more ChiCom army units in area than now officially carried.**
- C. MAAG says some ChiCom arty positions on Weitou Peninsula, NE of Big Quemoy, have been occupied. Guns on Weitou will be able to hit Quemoy airfield, and southern landing beaches. These targets have not been in range of previous ChiCom positions.**
- D. ChiComs intensifying propaganda to Quemoy. Using boats, kites and artillery to send safe conduct passes and literature urging defections.**

**VI. Taipei is planning to bolster Quemoy defenses by bringing all units there up to full strength.**

- A. Shipment of nearly 13,000 troops to Quemoy is scheduled for this month, will bring regular garrison strength there to approximately 67,000.**
- B. Quemoy garrison now has 54,000 regulars, and estimated 1,500 guerrillas.**